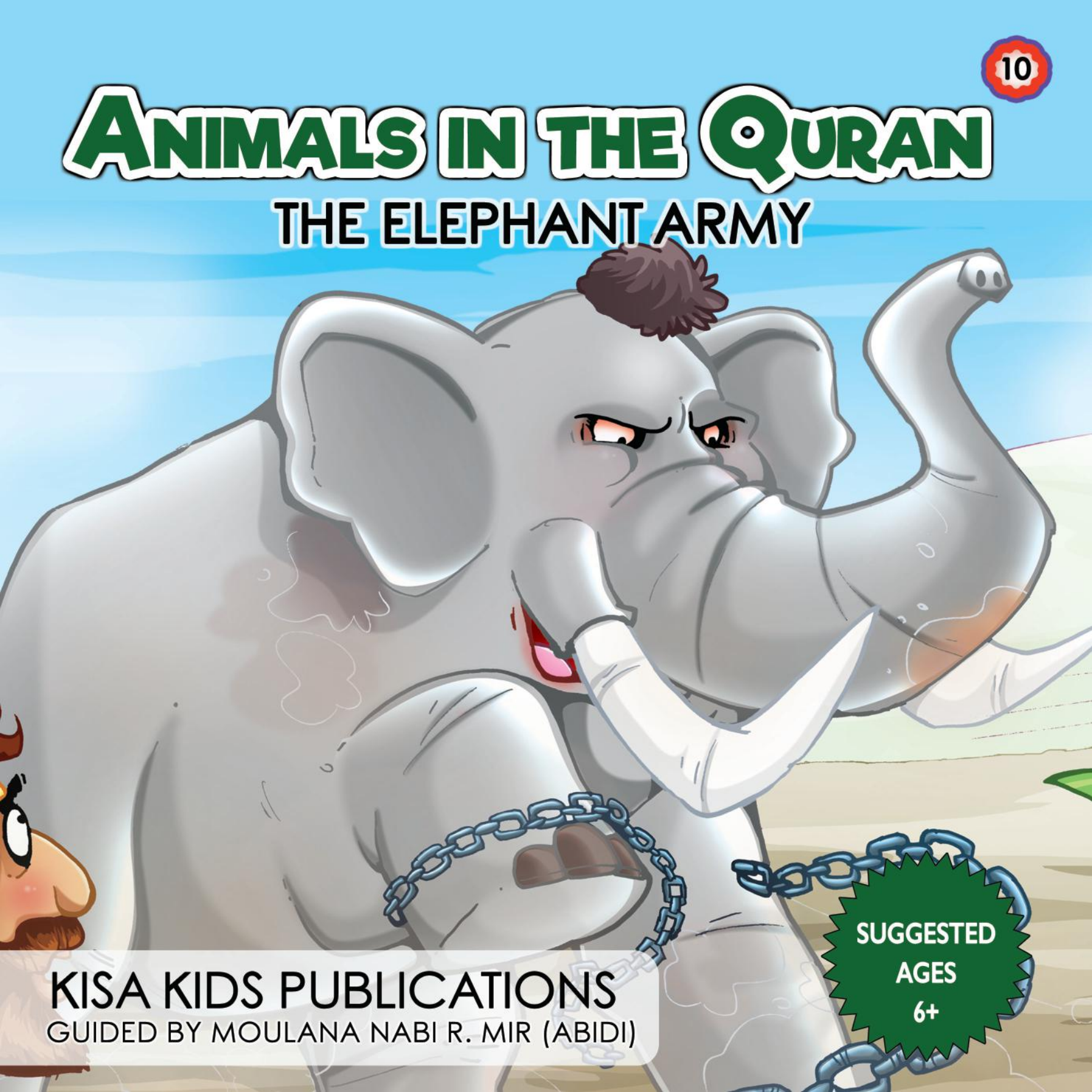
10

ANIMALS IN THE QURAN

THE ELEPHANT ARMY



SUGGESTED AGES 6+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS

GUIDED BY MOULANA NABI R. MIR (ABIDI)

Disclaimer: Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj). May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Original Author

Brother Alāʾ Jaʿfarī

Acknowledgements

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.

Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.

True reward lies with Allah, but we would like to sincerely thank the efforts of Shaykh Salim Yusufali, Sisters Sabika Mithani, Liliana Villalvazo, Sarah Ali, Amna Hussain, Zainab Mithani, Zahra Sabur, Sajeda Merchant, Fathema Abidi, Fatemeh Eslami, Kisae Nazar, Abeda Khimji, Zehra Abbas, Zainab Hussain, and Fatima Hussain. We would especially like to thank Nainawa Publications for their artwork and contributions
May Allah bless them in this world and the next.

Marḥūmīn Dedication

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of the Talebi family

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of *Animals in the Quran* is to strengthen children's understanding of how Allah is All-Powerful and All-Wise, thus strengthening their tawakkul and reliance. We hope that you and your children enjoy these books and use them as a means to achieve this goal, inshāʾAllāh.

We pray to Allah to give us the strength and tawfīq to perform our duties and responsibilities.

With Duʾās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

About the Board ʿĀlim

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think outside the box by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum and begin their life long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of Darse Khārij from Ḥawzah, Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, growing up in India while now residing in the United States, he has had the honor to meet with various communities and community leaders, and values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials and to create open source platforms so information and resources are available and accessible to all.

* * *

You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family. Share the word, and join the mission.

10

ANIMALS IN THE QURAN

THE ELEPHANT ARMY

AL-KISA FOUNDATION
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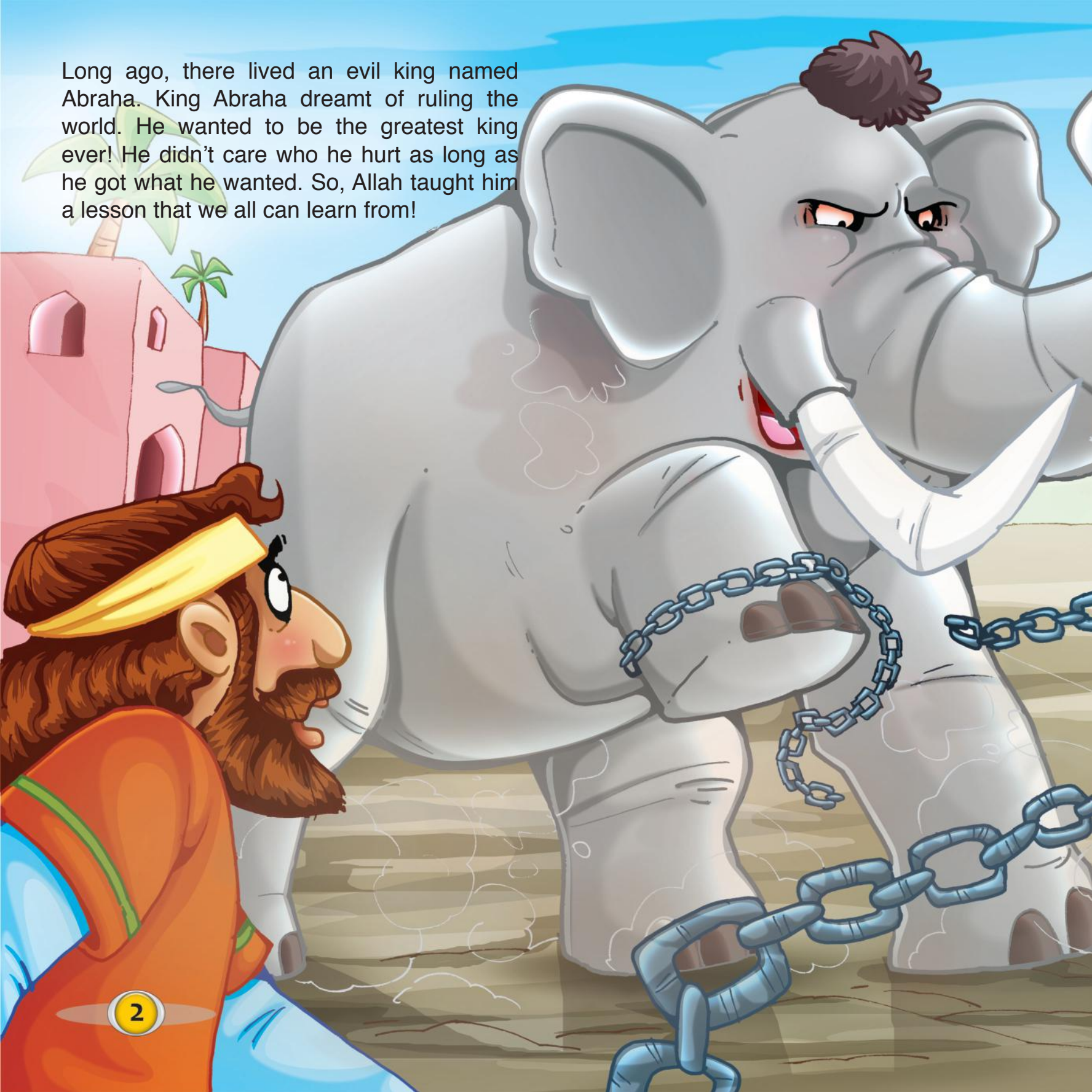
Long ago, there lived an evil king named Abraha. King Abraha dreamt of ruling the world. He wanted to be the greatest king ever! He didn't care who he hurt as long as he got what he wanted. So, Allah taught him a lesson that we all can learn from!



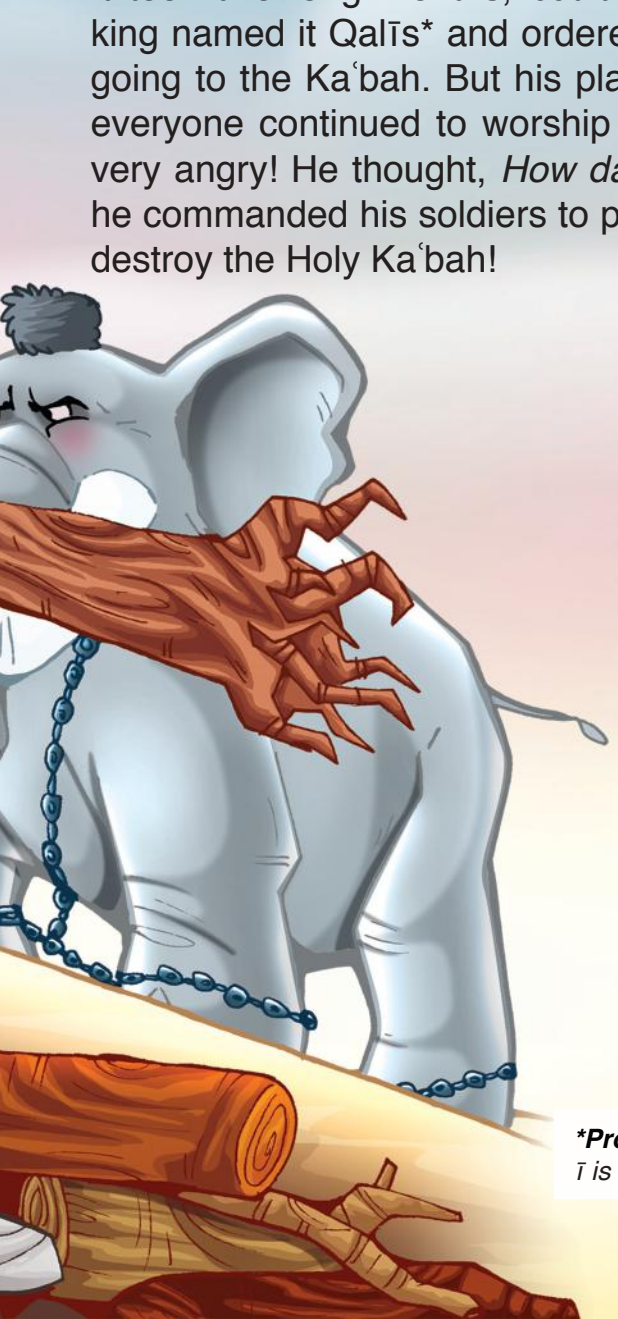
One day, King Abraha's soldiers told him about an amazing elephant that lived in the land of Ḥabashah.* This elephant was bigger and stronger than all other elephants in the world! When Abraha heard this, he said, "I have to have this elephant — no matter what it takes!" He ordered his soldiers to immediately go to Ḥabashah and bring him this amazing elephant!

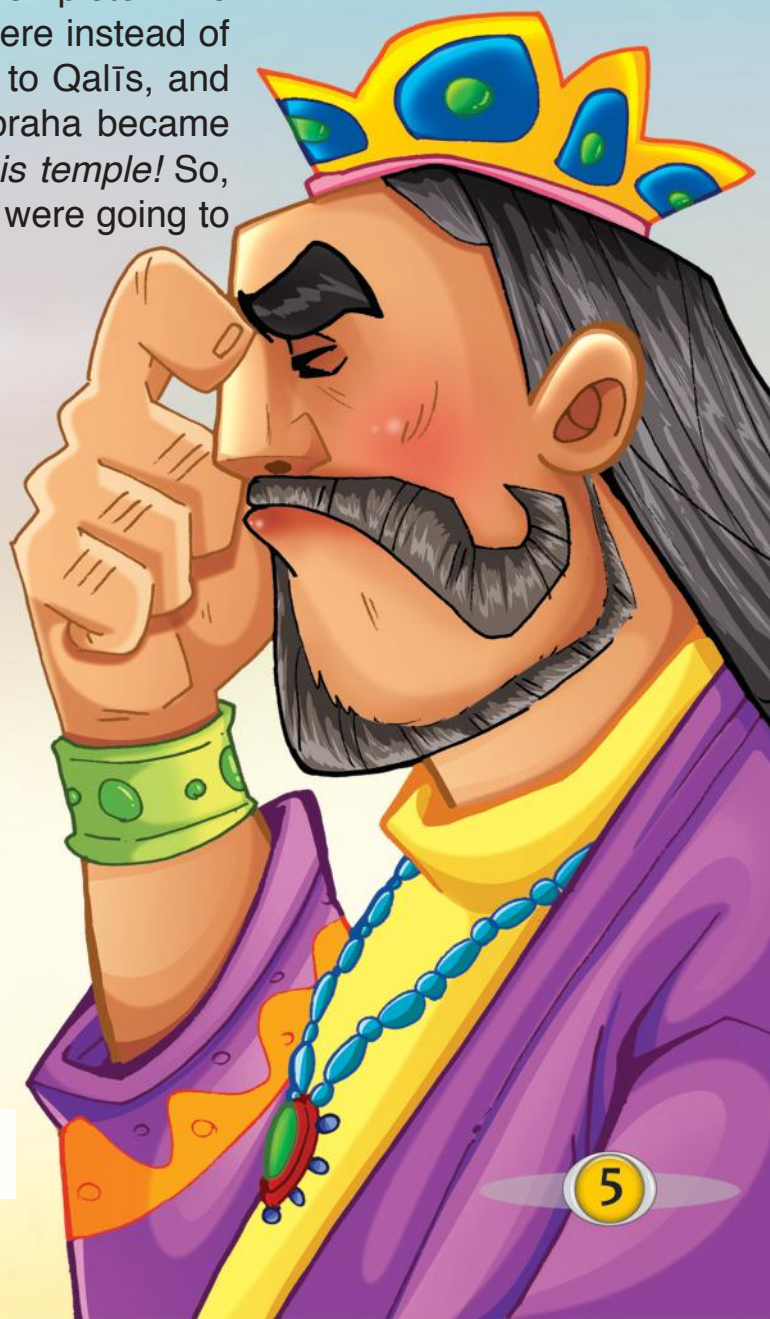
His soldiers did as they were told. Soon, they returned with the largest elephant anyone had ever seen! With every step the elephant took, the land would shake! It felt just like an earthquake!

***Pronunciation Guide:**
ḥ Is a heavy "ha" sound that comes from the middle of the throat

Abraha was jealous that everyone would go to the Holy Kaʿbah in Mecca! You see, he didn't believe in Allah, and wanted people to worship him instead! So, he came up with a master plan. He was going to build an enormous temple! This way, everyone would come here to worship instead of going to the Kaʿbah! But they didn't have large trucks back then. What was he going to do? So, he used the giant elephant to carry large rocks and tree trunks into the city.

It took two long months, but the temple was finally complete! The king named it Qalīs* and ordered his people to pray there instead of going to the Kaʿbah. But his plan failed! No one came to Qalīs, and everyone continued to worship at the Kaʿbah! King Abraha became very angry! He thought, *How dare they not come to this temple!* So, he commanded his soldiers to prepare the army – they were going to destroy the Holy Kaʿbah!





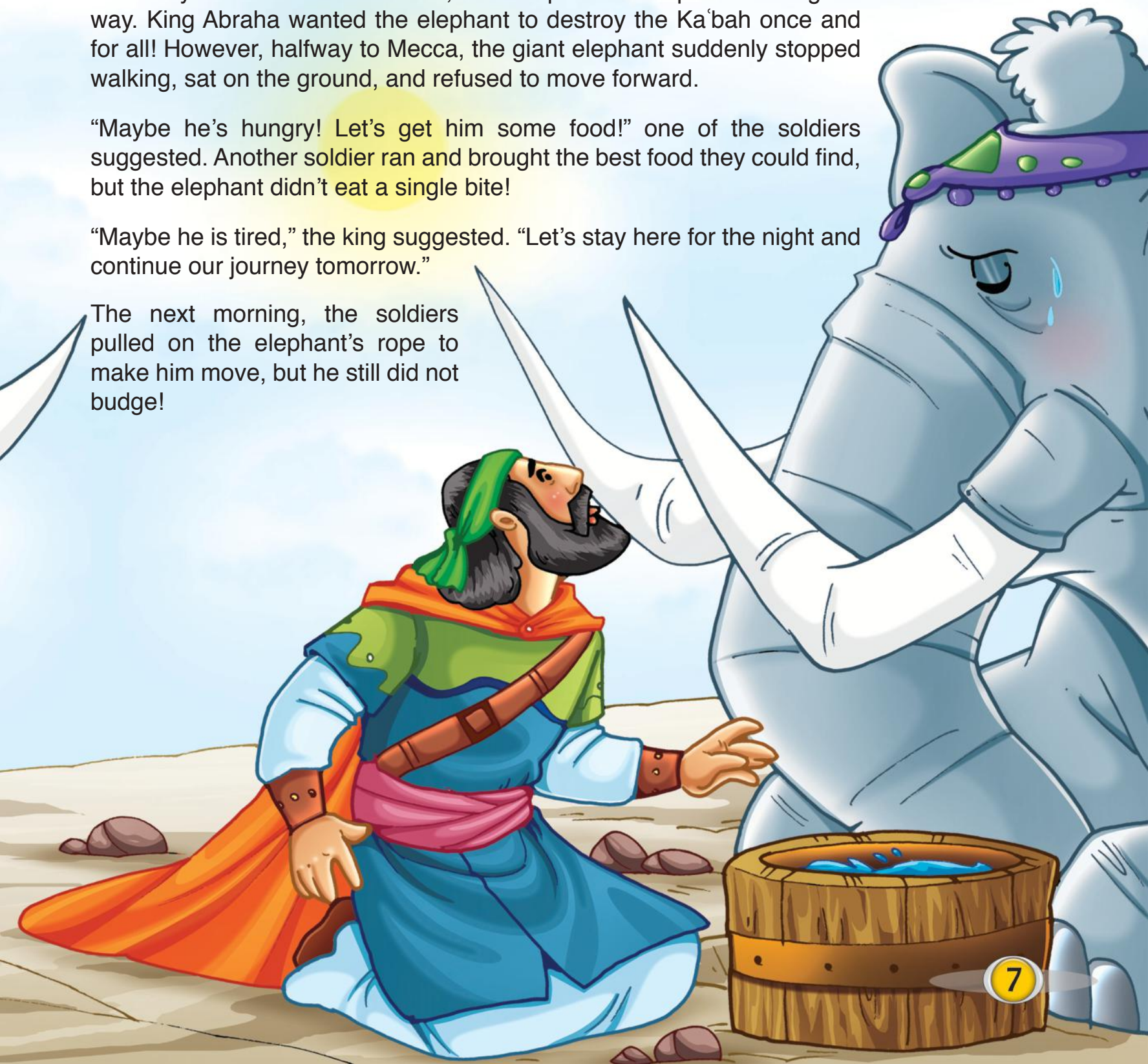
Pronunciation Guide:
ī is an elongated "e" sound, like "ee"

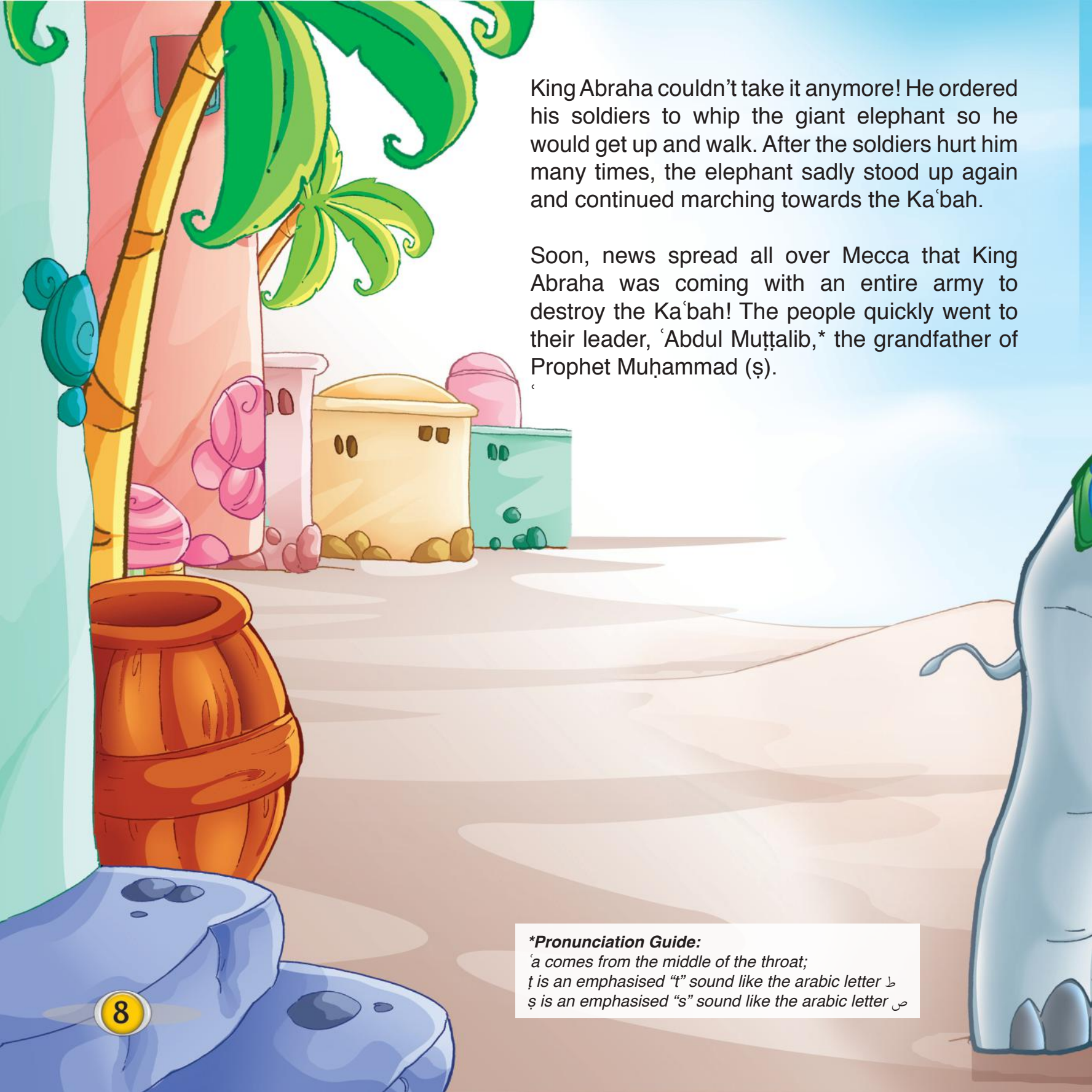
The army headed towards Mecca, with the powerful elephant leading the way. King Abraha wanted the elephant to destroy the Kaʿbah once and for all! However, halfway to Mecca, the giant elephant suddenly stopped walking, sat on the ground, and refused to move forward.

“Maybe he’s hungry! Let’s get him some food!” one of the soldiers suggested. Another soldier ran and brought the best food they could find, but the elephant didn’t eat a single bite!

“Maybe he is tired,” the king suggested. “Let’s stay here for the night and continue our journey tomorrow.”

The next morning, the soldiers pulled on the elephant’s rope to make him move, but he still did not budge!





King Abraha couldn't take it anymore! He ordered his soldiers to whip the giant elephant so he would get up and walk. After the soldiers hurt him many times, the elephant sadly stood up again and continued marching towards the Kaʿbah.

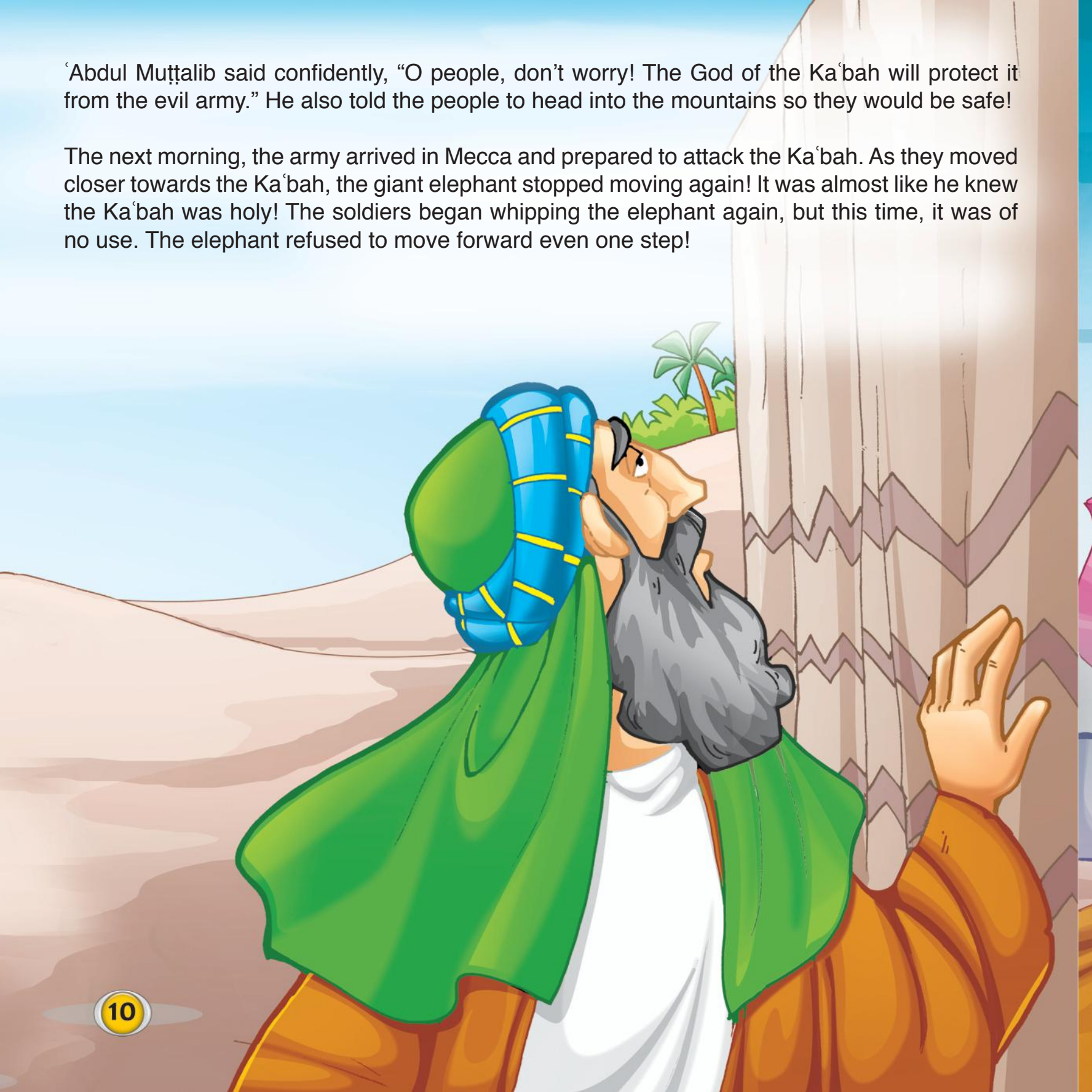
Soon, news spread all over Mecca that King Abraha was coming with an entire army to destroy the Kaʿbah! The people quickly went to their leader, ʿAbdul Muṭṭalib,* the grandfather of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ).

ʿ

Pronunciation Guide:
ʿa comes from the middle of the throat;
ṭ is an emphasised "t" sound like the arabic letter ط
ṣ is an emphasised "s" sound like the arabic letter ص

ʿAbdul Muṭṭalib said confidently, “O people, don’t worry! The God of the Kaʿbah will protect it from the evil army.” He also told the people to head into the mountains so they would be safe!

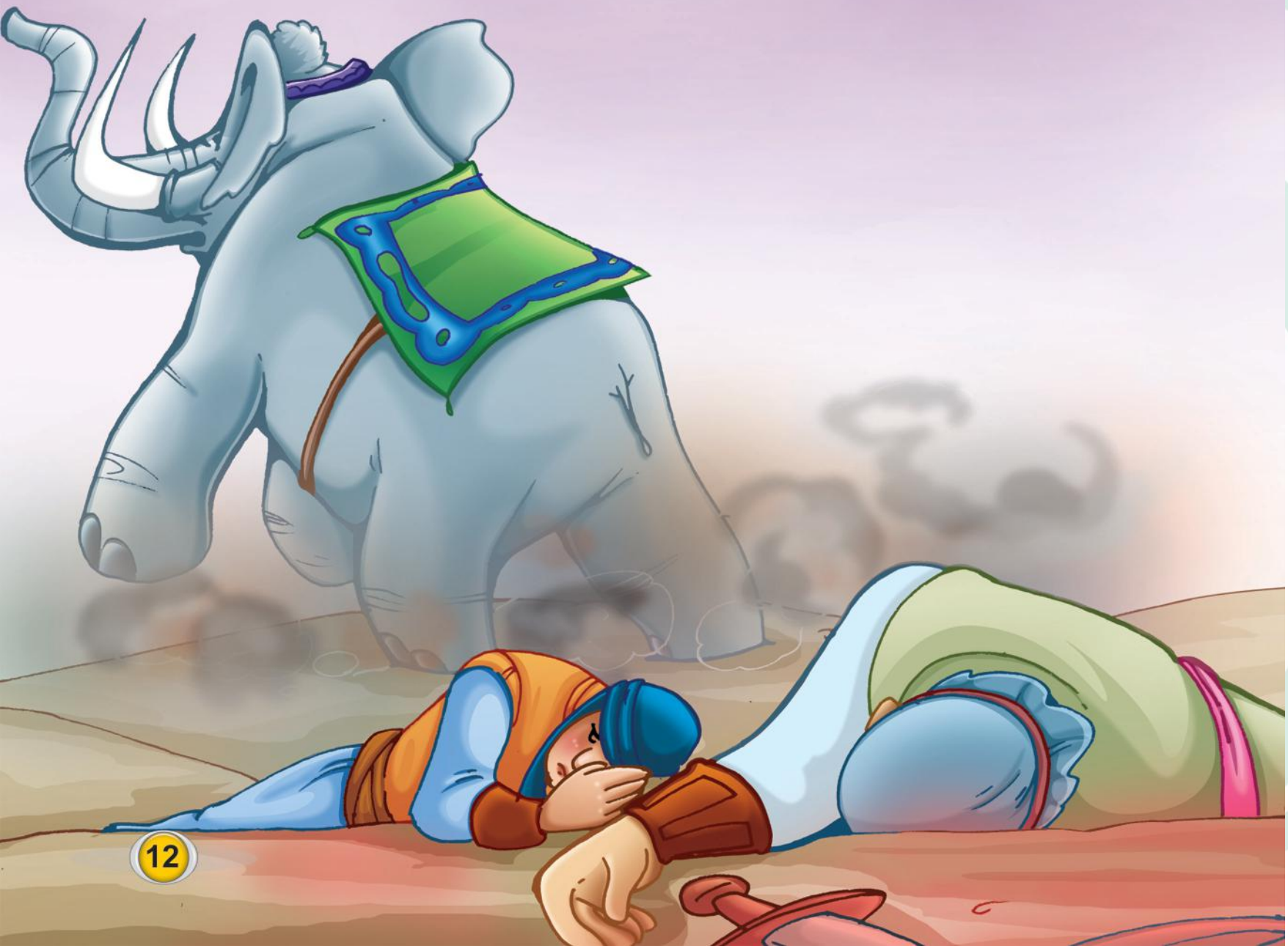
The next morning, the army arrived in Mecca and prepared to attack the Kaʿbah. As they moved closer towards the Kaʿbah, the giant elephant stopped moving again! It was almost like he knew the Kaʿbah was holy! The soldiers began whipping the elephant again, but this time, it was of no use. The elephant refused to move forward even one step!



All of a sudden, they felt a huge shadow cast over their heads. They looked up and saw a huge flock of birds! Hidden in their beaks and claws were thousands of little stones. As they flew directly over the army, they dropped their stones, which rained down on the soldiers with great force!

Hundreds of the soldiers were killed by the the falling stones, and the rest ran away in fear. The great elephant also began to run and even trampled King Abraha under his large feet!

Through this story, we can learn a valuable lesson: no matter how big or small something may seem, Allah is the All-Powerful and the Best Protector! With His power, even the smallest stones can have the biggest effect!



Family Time

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ

Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with the people of the elephant? (105:1)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

When reading and learning about stories from the Qurʾān, it is important for us to reflect upon the lessons they teach us. In order to help your child internalize the lessons from this story, discuss the following questions:

1. Why did Abraha want the giant elephant?

2. Why did Abraha get angry after his temple was built?

3. What happened to the elephant as he was marching towards the Kaʿbah? Why do you think the elephant did that?

4. What miracle occurred that destroyed Abraha and his army?

5. What lesson can we learn from this story?

Glossary

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

(swt): All glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

(ʿaj): May God hasten his reappearance

Ahl al-Bayt: Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

al-Fātiḥah: The first *sūrah* that is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāh: All praise is for God

Allah: The Arabic term for God, a culmination of all His holy names and titles

Duʿā: Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

Imām: A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

InshāʾAllāh: God-willing

Kaʿbah: The most Sacred Mosque for Muslims, situated in Mecca and is the direction of prayer

Marḥūmīn: Someone who has passed away

Qurʾān: The holy book of Muslims

Sūrah: A chapter of the Qurʾān

Tawakkul: Reliance and trust in God

Tawfīq: Divine blessings from God that give one the opportunity and ability to thrive towards success

ʿUlamāʾ: Scholars

Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ (medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
ـّ	double letter
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.

Abraha and his giant army of elephants are on their way to crush the Holy Ka'bah to the ground — oh no! The entire city of Mecca is in a panic, except Abdul Muttalib that is. He knows that Allah is the keeper of the Ka'bah and He will protect it. But how? *The Elephant Army* teaches us how to trust in Allah and how He is the All-Powerful!

AL-KISA FOUNDATION
UNDER THE CLOAK OF GUIDANCE AND MERCY

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